

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., today said, "I see Karl Rove at work on the 2006 midterm elections in President Bush's speech touting the use of National Guard troops to help stem the tide of immigrants coming across our southwestern border. 'Motivate the base! Motivate the base!' That's the real message Rove is sending through Bush's immigration speech.

"The President's poll numbers are showing a 29% approval rate because of the catastrophe in Iraq, the chaos of Katrina, the cost of gas, the confusion surrounding his Medicare prescription drug plan, and the crisis of budget deficits and debt - the result of tax cuts for the rich at a time of heavy war costs. The only thing this President and Republicans have going for themselves is *fear itself - perpetuating the fear that a terrorist will enter the country as an immigrant*. If it wasn't for the legitimate fear generated by 9/11, virtually every public policy or plan advocated or implemented by the Bush Administration would have made Mr. Bush the most unpopular President in our nation's history.

"We can expect to see more of Karl Rove's fingerprints on President Bush in the coming months. He's beginning with the illegitimate fear of immigrants, but soon we'll see the fear of same-sex marriage; the fear of scientific advancement with false claims about stem cell research and human cloning; fear that millions are engaging in flag burning; fear that God will disappear if taken out of the Pledge of Allegiance; the fear of women making choices; and the resurrection of unacceptable far-right judicial nominees - all to motivate their conservative political base to come out and vote in November, 2006. This is because they fear Democrats could regain control of the House and Senate in November if their base stays home.

"I hope the American people will not be fooled again by these 'tactics of fear' and will vote their economic interests instead of their social fears," Jackson concluded.